

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0198

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, UNHRC, CI
SUBJECT: GETTING READY FOR THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: THE
CHILE RESOLUTION

1. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH MISOFF JANUARY 20, UK THIRD
COMMITTEE AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC) DEPUTY REP (EDIS)
AND DUTCH THIRD COMMITTEE REP AND HRC OBSERVER THIS YEAR AND
LAST (HEINEMANN) EXPRESSED ROUGHLY SIMILAR VIEWS ON UPCOMING
CHILE RESOLUTION AT HRC.

2. "THE WEST SHOULD TAKE IT (THE RESOLUTION) OVER," (EDIS),
BECAUSE THE SITUATION HAS CHANGED IN CHILE
TO ONE OF AUTHORITARIAN AND REPRESSIVE RULE FATHER THAN SO
MUCH DIRECT ABUSE OF INDIVIDUAL HUMAN RIGHTS, AND THAT IS MORE
OF A WESTERN ISSUE. "YOU (THE US) ARE SO IMPORTANT TO THE
RESOLUTION, AND YOU WILL HAVE STRONG EUROPEAN SUPPORT, THAT YOU
AND THE UK SHOULD COME IN WITH A STRONG PRO-DEMOCRATIC RESOLUTION
CALLING FOR THE END OF THE STATE OF SEIGE, RESTORATION OF FREEDOM
OF THE PRESS, LIBERATION OF ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS,
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PROTECTION FOR AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIAL SYSTEM, ETC,"
(HEINEMANN). "IF THE WESTERN POWERS DON'T TAKE THE LEAD,
THE EASTERN BLOC WILL CONTINUE TO DO MISCHIEF WITH THE
ISSUE." (EDIS)

3. "THE FOCUS SHOULD BE CHANGED, BUT NOT TO GIVE THE
CHILEANS (THE GOC) A PAT ON THE BACK." (HEINEMANN) THE

LABOR GOVERNMENT "FEELS STRONGLY THAT IT DOESN'T WANT TO GIVE ANY RECOGNITION TO CHILE IN THE RESOLUTION FOR RECENT CHANGES," BUT WITH THE CHANGE OF FOCUS (TO URGING THE RETURN TO DEMOCRACY) THE LABOR GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE WILLING TO HAVE SOME MORE RECOGNITION OF THE GOC'S EFFORTS IN RESOLUTION (EDIS). BOTH EDIS AND HEINEMANN WERE CONVINCED THAT THE RESOLUTION SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO STAY AS IT IS, BECAUSE THE SITUATION HAS CHANGED, BUT THAT THERE WAS NO EFFECTIVE WAY TO SHELVE IT.

4. BOTH AGREED WITH MISOFF THAT PERHAPS THERE MIGHT BE FOUND SOME WAY TO SPELL OUT THE MANDATE OF THE WORKING GROUP MORE CLEARLY IN THE RESOLUTION, AND TO LIMIT AND FOCUS IT SOMEWHAT.

5. MISOFF EXPLAINED THAT THE US WAS REVIEWING ITS POLICY TOWARDS THE CHILE RESOLUTION AT THIS TIME AND ASSUMED THAT US GUIDELINES WOULD BE FORTHCOMING BEFORE THE HRC MEETING. BOTH URGED CONSULTATION ASAP, AND REMARKED THAT THE ISSUE WAS IMPORTANT TO THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS. HEINEMANN URGED THE US AND THE UK TO PROPOSE A DRAFT JOINTLY TO THE HRC DRAFTING GROUP (WHICH WILL BE COMPOSED OF SWEDEN AS CONVENOR, US, UK, YUGOSLAVIA, AUSTRIA AND CUBA -- ASSUMING US AGREES TO PARTICIPATE IN DRAFTING GROUP AS POSSIBLE CO-SPONSOR AND PREVIOUS CO-SPONSOR). HE REMARKED THAT A LITTLE STRUGGLE WITH THE CUBANS AND

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YUGOSLAVS ON THE ISSUE OF, SAY, AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY OR A FREE PRESS IN THE DRAFTING GROUP WOULD NOT BE A BAD THING, THAT THERE WOULD PROBABLY BE SIGNIFICANT NON-ALIGNED SUPPORT FOR SUCH A MOVE, SOLID EUROPEAN SUPPORT, AND PERHAPS EVEN MORE LATIN SUPPORT.

6. HEINEMANN SAID THAT THE RECENT REPRESSION AGAINST THE CHILEAN DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP HAD GREATLY SOLIDIFIED CONTINENTAL EUROPEAN DETERMINATION TO PUSH ON THE CHILE RESOLUTION EVEN MORE. THE DYNAMIC, HE SAID, IS THAT THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS HAVE BEEN PUSHING FOR SOME TIME, AND NOW (VERY RECENTLY) THE ISSUE HAS BECOME A JOINT ONE WITH THEM AND THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, AND THAT MEANS MUCH GREATER EUROPEAN INTEREST IN THE RESOLUTION. HE POINTED OUT THAT CHILE SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO REMAIN THE ONLY NATION, (ALONG WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND ISRAEL), WHOSE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IS MONITORED BY THE UN.

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